

IN THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1, lines 7-10 with the following paragraph:

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A1  
This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/221,262, "System and Method for Transparent On-line Encoding and Transport of Network Communications Data," filed July 25, 2000, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. This application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/872,184, "System and Method for Incremental and Continuous Data Compression," filed May 31, 2001, having inventor Amit P. Singh and also claiming priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/221,262. This application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/226,502, "Efficient Method & System for Automatic Discovery and Verification of Optimal Paths Through A Dynamic Multi-Point Meshed Overlay Network," filed August 23, 2002, having inventors Anupam A. Bharali, Balraj Singh, Manish H. Sampat, Amit P. Singh, and Rajiv Batra and also claiming priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/314,692 having a filing date of August 24, 2001.

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